

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01172 170944Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 170915Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1172

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG

SUBJECT: OCCIDENTAL DISPUTE WITH LIBYA

REF: STATE 243713

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD NOTHING ALONG THE LINES OF OXY PRES BAIRD'S SERIOUS ALLEGATION THAT LIBYAN POLICE AND ARMY ARE USING FORCE TO MAKE OXY FIELD EMPLOYEES DO WORK AGAINST THEIR WILL. DURING TWO OR THREE MEETINGS WITH TWO AMERICAN FIELD WORKERS INVOLVED IN "TEST" CASE NOTHING OF THIS SORT CAME UP. HOWEVER, WE WILL FOLLOW UP MATTER DISCREETLY.

2. GENERAL SAFETY AND WELFARE OF OXY EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS CONTINUE TO BE SATISFACTORY. THEY HAVE A NATURAL CONCERN ABOUT PERSONAL FUTURES, BUT ARE MUCH AWARE AND CONFORTED BY THE FACT THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE 6 MONTH SALARY BONUSES, IF OXY CEASES OPERATION. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAVE CONTINGENCY JOB OFFERS FROM LIBYAN NATIONAL OIL CO.

3. SUBJECT OF LARG STEALING OXY OIL AND SELLING IT TO FRENCH AND ITALIAN BUYERS IS NEW TO US. A CONFUSING FACTOR IN SUCH A SITUATION COULD BE THAT OXY FIELD
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FACILITIES, AND PRESUMABLY ITS SEA TERMINAL, PROCESS OIL

PUMPED FOR AQUITAINE, AMOCO AND POSSIBLY OTHER COMPANIES. SUGGEST DEPT SPECIALISTS CLARIFY OPERATING AND BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS OXY HAS WITH OTHER PRODUCERS AND MARKETERS.

4. IN OUR OPINION A MOST HELPFUL STEP TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON THE QUESTION OF FREEDOM TO TRAVEL -- AND TO DO AWAY WITH A TROUBLING AMBIGUITY IN THE COMPANY'S POSITION -- WOULD BE AN UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC STATEMENT BY OXY THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO WITHDRAW ESSENTIAL OPERATION PERSONNEL FROM LIBYA DURING THE DISPUTE.
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Message Attributes

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